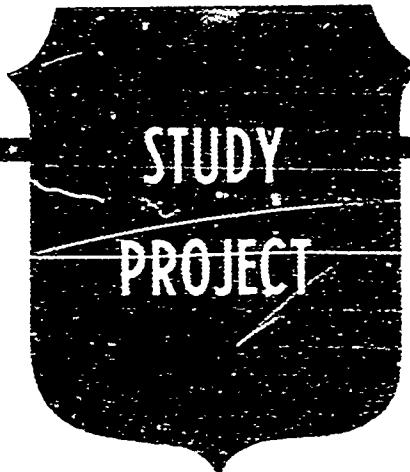


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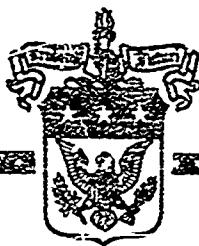
DRUGS IN THE AMERICAS
THEIR INFLUENCE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BY

COLONEL CARLOS GARCIA PRIANI

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DRUGS IN THE AMERICAS
THEIR INFLUENCE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

AN INDIVIDUAL STUDY PROJECT

by

Colonel Carlos Garcia Priani. Mexican Army

Colonel Alden M. Cunningham
Project Adviser

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ABSTRACT

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DRUGS IN THE AMERICAS
THEIR INFLUENCE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In an effort to increase the awareness of the damages that illegal drugs are causing our societies, This paper seeks to explain to the reader how drugs have become increasingly influential, and how they are damaging, without distinction, both rich and poor countries. Moreover, the economic power of drug traffickers is such that it gives them the capacity to corrupt people at all levels in societies. This is why all of us must take positive action to fight against this crime. Only with an unified effort, will we be stronger than organized crime.

BACKGROUND

The world endured two major confrontations which led to the creation of an international organization through which the member countries reconcile their opposing interests thus preventing a struggle of such magnitude that it could destroy the whole world.

The United Nations has been successful in the performance of its task. So far, it has been able to maintain a relative peace, tarnished only by regional problems, by virtue of its conciliatory intervention. Its performance has also been outstanding in the economic, political and social areas.

Nevertheless, today's world is facing an unprecedented struggle against an unknown enemy that does not respect beliefs or races; that does not care about political positions or types of government; that attacks both the rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak. That enemy, called "DRUG ADDICTION", is undermining our societies and destroying the harmony between allied, friendly and neighboring countries.

Drug addiction goes hand in hand with "DRUG TRAFFICKING". The latter is the realm of those who corrupt, damage and undermine our societies. They are scattered all over the world, hidden as wolves in sheep's clothing. They portray themselves as prosperous and useful citizens. In fact those who openly display their illegally obtained wealth are but instruments of the real enemies of society.

The scope of this paper is to analyze this problem within the context of the nations of the American Continent. This effort will attempt to indicate causes and effects, as well as the influence drugs have on international relations between consuming and producing countries. Finally, it will try to define the policies that could be implemented to attain better results in our struggle against production, trafficking and consumption.

CHAPTER II

SOWING AND PRODUCTION OF DRUGS

OPIUM AND ITS DERIVATIVES

Origin and Background

The poppy or opium poppy is the source from which opium is extracted. There are several species, but the best known are the "Papaver somniferum" and the "Papaver bracteatum". These have grown in the Mediterranean since the IIIrd century B.C. Since then they have spread to different countries.

In the VIIth century, the Arabs introduced and popularized the use of opium. Later, it slowly invaded India via the Valley of the Ganges and the shores of Bengal.

In the XVIth century, under the domination of the Mongols, opium was harvested and marketed in India, a privilege later taken over by the British who promoted drug addiction in Asia.

Scientific research began during that same century brought about the possibility of synthesizing new drugs derived from opium that would turn out to be more dangerous and harmful than the parent drug.

Morphine was the first alkaloid synthesized from opium. Its origins go back to 1805. Its use, for medical purposes, increased during the North American Civil War and the European

campaigns, when physicians used it widely to relieve the pain of wounded soldiers who then became permanent consumers.

In 1898, in an attempt to find derivatives with no dependency side effects, Professor Dreser produced "Diacetylmorphine" (heroin), which turned out to be even more dangerous.

The two world wars, as well as those of Korea and Vietnam, increased the production of the drug due to the demand from the countries involved in the conflicts. These significant world wars left in their wake a large number of heroin addicts in the United States and several European countries. In the United States alone, the estimated number of addicts in 1978 was 2.3 million, the majority of whom were veterans.

Production

Until the end of the 60's and the beginning of the 70's, the drugs consumed in the United States and Canada came exclusively from Europe. This was the distribution center for drugs produced in Turkey, India and Southeast Asia. The drug kings had their headquarters in Amsterdam and Marseille, ports from which the illegal drug was shipped to America. They also had a production line in the northern part of Mexico where the drug had been first introduced in the XIXth century by Asian workers hired for the construction of the Pacific Railroad. Mexican output increased during the Vietnam war and at present its annual production ranges from 10 to 15 metric tons, which doesn't even represent 1%

of world output. Other countries in the Continent also produce this drug but not in significant amounts.

COCA AND COCAINE

Origin and Background

Cocaine is a powerful stimulant of natural origin which is extracted from the leaves of the coca plant, a shrub that grows on the high hillsides of the Andes, as well as in valleys and humid lands. It is especially grown in Bolivia and Peru, as well as in other countries of the American Continent.

The habit of chewing coca leaves dates back to the Incas, it spread throughout the entire Empire from what is today Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru to the northern part of Chile and Argentina. This habit still persists among the indigenous inhabitants of the region who use it to mitigate hunger, cold, and fatigue without showing any of the characteristic signs of drug addiction.

Cocaine was first synthesized in Europe towards the end of the XIXth century and was used as a local anesthetic as well as in ocular surgery. It was also consumed as a wine additive and as an ingredient of "Coca Cola". During that period it was advertised as a "Cerebral tonic to cure nervous disorders" and became very useful in nasal and throat surgery thanks to its high strength both as an anesthetic and as a vasoconstrictor and antihemorrhagic agent. Currently, new products have been

developed and the use of cocaine for these medical applications has been abandoned.

Relatively speaking, cocaine remained in the shadows until the 60's, but the demand for it skyrocketed as of the 70's thus making it one of the drugs in highest demand.(1) Until the 60's, the coca grown in South America was imported by Europe where it was processed into cocaine and consumed by the aristocracy and members of the artistic and intellectual world.(2)

Production

Bolivia and Peru are the only two countries that have legally authorized coca leave production, but they are also the two largest producers of illegal coca.

According to reports from the Office of International Affairs on Narcotics of the U.S. Department of State, Peru is at present the main coca producer in the world. Its 1987 output ranged from 90,000 to 115,000 metric tons.

Bolivia is the second major coca producer. Its 1987 estimated output was 40,000 to 50,000 metric tons. Almost 100% of its production is transformed into drugs.

Colombia ranks third in the world production scale. Its output, totally illegal and estimated for 1987 as ranging between 6,000 and 12,800 metric tons, is fully destined for drug trafficking purposes.

Ecuador also produces coca leaves and has a small domestic consumption. Nevertheless, in 1984 an escalation in its harvest was discovered with an estimated output for 1987 of 1,400 metric tons.

Coca fields have also been discovered in Brazil where its sowing and development is quite recent. It is a variety called "Epadu" which grows in forest underbrush. There are no statistical production data available.

Regarding Panama and Venezuela, where coca fields have also been detected, production is very limited and there are no specific data available.

MARIHUANA

Origin and Background

Marihuana or marijuana, is a plant of the Cannabaceas family (*Cannabis sativa*). The "Canamo" variety is grown for the production of textile linen, while the "Indico" variety, of very poor textile quality, has a higher alkaloid concentration in the hairs of its leaves. India's ancient religious literature, dating back to 2.000 B.C., makes reference to this plant, and by the time the Europeans discovered the New World, it was already being used both as an intoxicating agent and to make clothing.

In the XVIIth century, British settlers introduced the plant to New England. Even though they were interested in its

textile qualities. according to Richard C. Schroeder in his book The Politics of Drugs, there is evidence that the settlers knew about and used it for its narcotic properties.

In 1839 Cannabis became part of Western medical history with the publication of an article which analyzed its therapeutic potential, including possible uses as an analgesic and anticonvulsive agent. This medical interest declined at the beginning of the XXth century.

Production

Marihuana grows naturally in almost all regions of the world. The countries of this continent where marihuana fields have been found are in order of importance the following: Jamaica with an annual production ranging from 1,340 to 1,825 metric tons; Colombia, from 1,100 to 2,200 metric tons; Mexico, from 1,500 to 2,000 metric tons; Belize, with 300 to 330 metric tons; and others with a smaller production such as Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela with an overall annual production ranging from 800 to 1,200 metric tons.

Other products derived from Cannabis, such as hashish oil, are less bulky and therefore easier to hide than marihuana. The latter is generally compressed into bundles that weigh from 10 to 60 pounds and is moved in shipments ranging anywhere from 200 to 2,000 pounds. It has been estimated that 700 metric tons of marihuana can be processed and converted into 1,000 pounds of

hashish and hashish oil.

The United States also appears in the world production scale since of its total consumption 81% comes from abroad and the other 19% comes from domestic production sources.

SYNTHETIC AND ANALOG DRUGS

There are thousands of synthetic and analog drugs, some of which are 100 times more potent than the aforementioned ones. Nevertheless, just a few of them appear in the statistical lists regarding drug addiction.

On the other hand, the trade of these drugs is facilitated because the raw materials used for their production are generally used for legal purposes and therefore cannot be controlled or restricted as is the case with opium, cocaine or marihuana. As a result, their production has spread rapidly and extensively. They users can obtain them easily from either clandestine (illicit) laboratories or directly from the legal market using forged or stolen prescriptions.

Within this broad group of drugs there are some that stand out, being 20 to 50 times more potent than the original substances. These include PCP, Dilaudid, Psilocybin, MDMA and other analogs produced and sold in the same developed countries where they are consumed.

CHAPTER III

TRAFFICKING AND DEMAND.

TRAFFICKING

Drug trafficking and consumption take place in all the countries of the Hemisphere even though some are more important than others. For example, most Latin American and Caribbean countries stand out in trafficking activity, while the United States and Canada lead the demand statistics. What follows is a summarized report on drug trafficking activity carried out in some countries of the Hemisphere.

Argentina

This country manufactures "Essential Chemicals" illegally obtained by the drug traffickers. To meet its own domestic demand as well as that of Canada, the United States and other countries, it has in recent years increased its refining and transport activities of Bolivian cocaine.

Bahamas

The country is used for money laundering, as well as an important transit point for cocaine and marihuana bound for the United States and Canada.

Belize

All of Belize's production is exported to the United States.

Bolivia

Bolivia exports of base paste, destined primarily for Colombia.

Brazil

Brazil has the same situation as Argentina. The only difference is that in addition to cocaine there is also marihuana trafficking from its territory.

Colombia

This is the center of operations of the main drug traffickers. It is here where almost all cocaine intended for U.S. and Canadian markets is refined. It also ships marihuana and small amounts of Methaqualone and heroin.

Costa Rica

This is mainly a drug transit area. It is also a potential marihuana producer and cocaine refiner.

Cuba

This country continues to be a transit route for drug trafficking. There are no data available.

Dominican Republic

This is traditionally a shipping point used by Colombian, Cuban and North American traffickers for small amounts of

cocaine.

Ecuador

This country produces coca and refines cocaine. It is a transit country for cocaine from Peru and Colombia.

Guatemala

It is used to transit cocaine. Lately the growing of poppy and marihuana has become a problem.

Haiti

Haiti is also a transit country. Cocaine and marihuana consumption have become a problem.

Jamaica

It is a major marihuana producer. Its markets are in Canada, the United States and Europe. It also makes hashish oil and prepares hashish for illegal export.

Mexico

It is a marihuana and heroin producer. It has been estimated that one third of the cocaine consumed in the United States passes through this country.

Nicaragua

No concrete information is available. Nevertheless,

the DEA allegedly has evidence that this country is one of the links in the traffic of Colombian cocaine.

Panama

It produces marihuana. It also has been accused of supporting Colombia's cocaine trafficking and money laundering activities.

Paraguay

This is a marihuana producing country. Its production probably never leaves South America; it is believed to supply the Brazilian market. Lately, some cocaine refining laboratories have been discovered.

Peru

This is the world largest producer of coca. Most of this goes to supply U.S. and Canadian markets.

Venezuela

Some coca fields have been found in Venezuela. Marihuana and cocaine from Colombia passes through its territory bound for the United States, Canada, Europe and the Middle East.

DEMAND AND ITS CAUSES

Demand

Drug consumption is the de facto root of the drug

trafficking problem. It is the money producer which makes the business profitable for organized crime. The difficulty lies in the fact that its origins are quite diverse and complex and, therefore, very difficult to attack.

Consumption indexes have increased in an alarming manner especially in developed countries within this Continent. This is particularly true of the United States. The drugs menace permeates the political, social and economic areas affecting the national security of the nations involved.

To give an idea of the magnitude of the problem, we will now analyze some statistical data that supports these statements.

All the drugs known in the drug addiction world are consumed in the United States and are all part of the problem. During a technical meeting on Education and Drug Abuse held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the O.A.S. in 1985, it was concluded that alcohol, tobacco, marihuana and tranquilizers are the drugs most widely consumed in the American Continent. It was also reported that organic solvents, opiates (narcotics), hallucinogens and cocaine are not used to any great extent in Latin America.

Heroin and PCP, together with cocaine and marihuana, are amongst the drugs of choice of drug addicts and consumers in the United States. There is also a strong relationship between age group and drug preference. While young persons are more

inclined to consume marihuana and PCP, adults prefer cocaine because the latter is a stimulant that does not distort the perception of reality or have any of the other unpleasant side effects produced by hallucinogens.

In Mexico, as well as in Central America and the insular Caribbean countries, marihuana consumption is more widespread than in most South American nations.

Data published by the National Institute of Drug Abuse, indicate that amongst the 26 largest metropolitan areas of the United States (excluding New York), Washington, D.C. ranks first in PCP and heroin related deaths, and third (after Boston and Miami) in cocaine related deaths.

The authors of these statistics affirm that an analysis of the scope and depth of the drug problem, especially that of "Crack", in the cities and suburbs, destroys some of the myths regarding who abuses drugs. In Prince George and Montgomery counties, 45% of those admitted to heroin abuse treatment programs and 60% of all the patients admitted for drug abuse treatment in general were whites.(3)

Between 1978 and 1986, admissions to drug treatment programs increased 135% in the Washington, D.C. area. Likewise, drug related arrests in that same area increased 70% between 1981 and 1986. In the District alone, arrests for drug distribution increased 13 fold.(4)

Causes

The causes that have brought the drug trafficking problem to its current magnitude are part of a vicious circle defined by existing consumption factors which generate a demand that finances and stimulates the production of drugs. This creates the supply with its consequent market. This in turn stimulates and promotes consumption thus completing the cycle.

Going further in this analysis, we can say that this cycle is characterized by two different but interrelated situations. From the Latin American view, on the one hand, there is the external situation of consumption, demand and trafficking encompassing a wide variety of elements such as: the psychological impact of drug related wars on the population of the countries involved; the social breakdown of the family; the large number of drug addicts with sufficient economic resources to purchase drugs; the existence of organized crime with such enormous financial resources that it can purchase vehicles for land, air and sea transportation; weapons (often more powerful than those of the police or armed forces); all sorts of communications equipment and what is even more deplorable the capacity to corrupt others.

On the other hand, there is the internal situation of production and demand. Both of which create a favorable framework to promote drug trafficking for the following reasons:

1. The geographical proximity to an important consumer

country.

2. the limited support given to rural development resulting in precarious economic conditions for the population in those areas.
3. Ignorance of the law; favorable geographic and climatic conditions for production.
4. The presence of a drug mafia, which is a conduit for organized crime, controlling all these activities.
5. The likelihood of corruption.

CHAPTER IV

INFLUENCE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

The influence of this scourge on international relations is contingent on the position adopted by each country vis-to-vis the problem. As a rule, this has been a logical and appropriate response to the threat being faced. Nevertheless, at times the countries may hold conflicting viewpoints because while some believe that the root of the drug problem lies in consumption, others see its origin in increased production and trafficking.

The countries most heavily involved in the drug trafficking problem within the American Continent are: the United States and Canada as consumer countries; and amongst the producers (just to mention the main ones) Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. Each of these countries does its utmost to work and struggle against this crime.

The United States, in keeping with its determined effort against the production and traffic of drugs, grants both economic and material aid to some of the trafficking and producing countries. This is the case with Bolivia and Peru. In Bolivia the United States Armed Forces have been directly involved in operations. With other countries -such as Mexico and Colombia which have declared that they are working exclusively within the limits of their own budgetary resources and without any foreign aid- the United States has maintained mutual cooperation agreements directly linked to and in close coordination with DEA personnel.

The aid granted by the United States government varies and depends on its bilateral agreements with the different states. It is worth mentioning that while Peru considers that the problem falls strictly within the jurisdiction of the civilian authorities, other countries like Bolivia, Colombia and Mexico, include in their overall effort at least part of their armed forces.

The decision to use the armed forces in the war against drug trafficking was made in response to an escalation of the problem. Such is the case in Colombia. The goverment of Colombia decided last year to include the armed forces in the fight against the unified drug traffickers and guerrillas. This was driven by the flare up of attacks against civilian authorities (death of the Colombian Minister of Justice, Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, and of other

local authorities). Another example is Mexico which has maintained 25% of its armed forces in a tenacious and permanent campaign against this evil since 1972.

As indicated in the previous paragraph, Mexico has developed a permanent campaign against drugs involving the secretaries of National Defense, Navy, and Attorney General. These operations began in 1972 with a plan called "DN-PR-1". It consisted of the deployment of fixed and mobile detachments and bases of operations in characteristic drug places such as the states of Chihuahua, Sinaloa, and Durango.

In 1976, Mexico created Task Force "CONDOR 1" for action in specific areas where the problem was greatest. In locations where the problem remains operation "CONDOR" continues. The name of the operation was changed to "MARTE" in 1987. The units that form this task Force are relieved every six months for two reasons. First, this preserves the health of the men and avoids excessive fatigue. Second, this procedure reduces the possibility of personnel becoming corrupted by the drug dealers.

Another operation developed in Mexico is "Operation CANADOR" which is intensively and permanently applied in all areas of responsibility of the military zone commands. As a complement to both "MARTE and CANADOR" operations, the President of Mexico orders "SPECIAL" operations by defined time and in specific areas of several States. Mexico conducts these operations while at the same time attacking, within fiscal constraints, the real causes

of the problem. Mexico has clearly defined these causes in national and international forums as being social, economic and cultural in nature.

Even in the United States, the possibility of using the armed forces has been considered, but this effort is geared to attacking trafficking while little or nothing has been done with regard to consumption. In its determination to eradicate both traffic and production, the United States is unable or does not want to realize that it is impossible to destroy a business that in America alone makes 88 billion dollars in yearly profits unless you first eliminate the source of such economic power.

Things such as not extraditing drug traffickers, short term imprisonments, the assassination of DEA agents by drug traffickers with the possible complicity of police authorities, and the frustrating increase of drug addiction are all factors that have led to difficult international relations between the United States and the countries involved.

On the other hand, the North American government has also contributed to the souring of these international relations. Because of the assistance it extends to some countries, it has taken upon itself the right to act both as judge and executioner grading and certifying the actions of other nations. Actions that based on the principles of non-intervention and self-determination are the exclusive concern of each respective nation.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Conclusions

Undoubtedly, the drug trafficking problem is not new nor unknown. It has been fostered, for different purposes and in different regions, by past and present world powers. But historically we can find a common characteristic: it has always been handled by criminal organizations without loyalty to any country which have a greater interest in increasing their personal bank accounts than in the future of mankind.

Organized crime has turned the producing, trafficking, and consumer countries into its stronghold. Taking advantage of the economic, social and cultural problems of the developing countries, they bribe and threaten officials, and deceive the peasants by offering them "better" economic conditions.

The countries involved in the war to eradicate this crime against humanity carry on their struggle within their available resources and capabilities. Others receive aid from abroad. But the common objective is to free the world from this evil which with each passing day increases its toll in resources, efforts and what is even worse in human lives. This objective has been fully defined and understood by international organizations such as the UN and OAS through their specialized bodies, and it has been accepted by all states. Unfortunately these nations have not

been willing to set aside unilateral positions.

Recommendation

Armed confrontations are not the only cause of world collapse. At present, the world is struggling against a common enemy which does not respect any form of government, political position, creed or race; it simply undermines and degrades society as a whole. On this basis, I dare say that ours is a common struggle that should be waged not only by governments but also by the men and women of the world.

Therefore, both as a Mexican and as a member of the human community, I support the position adopted by my country which states that the world should not be divided into victims on the one hand and executioners on the other. All of our countries are victims, while none of them are executioners. Let us join our efforts so that respect, ethics and law will prevail.

We will thus become one army, perhaps with different weapons but with one common objective. Let us set aside unilateral positions that divide us. Instead, let us concentrate our efforts towards the eradication of the social, economic and cultural causes that foster and promote drug trafficking (production, traffic and consumption). But of course, without overlooking the need for launching at the same time a direct attack against this scourge.

The following programs might be developed for sowing,

production, trafficking, and demand reduction:

1. Creation of appropriate legislation at the Organization of American States level to pursue, judge, and penalize the traffickers in their own countries if possible, with national judges, but under Interamerican (International) court rules to diminish the possibility of corruption.
2. The creation and development of programs relating to:
 - Economic development.
 - Economic diversification plans.
 - Country development in coordination with illegal crops substitution.
 - Education and Information to the farmers.
 - Nuclear family integration.
 - Marginal groups integration into the economic life of the nation.
 - Diminish the growing development of urban areas and slow down population growth rates especially in the poorer countries.
 - Finally the creation of methods to determine and report the origin of funds being deposited in the banking system.

To the extent that the above programs are successful, the damages drugs do to our society will be diminished. At the very least, we will have more control over their areas of influence.

Some countries such as Peru and Mexico have already initiated programs to substitute illicit crops by granting the

necessary economic and technical assistance to the peasantry, complemented by cultural and information programs. Let us follow their example and support these actions by developing and strengthening our own efforts aimed at controlling those conditions that have fostered this crime against humanity.

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